Hi Everyone

While I was away there was Nurses’ Week in late May.

Probably the first realization during medical training once one starts to have any involvement in medical care is just how much teamwork and inter-disciplinary care and collaboration is involved in addressing the needs of patients and their families. No single health care profession has either all the answers and or the skills to ensure optimal health and well-being.

Nurses are so vital to what we can do as physicians and they are our partners (as are the occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, respiratory therapists, social workers, dieticians, administrative support staff etc.) in quality health care delivery.

Nurses’ Week is a reminder of this. There are too many nurses’ to mention but I can do my part by singling out the enormous contribution I witness and experience first-hand in pediatric neurology as a neurologist by Heather Davies and Rosalie Suarez. Both are masters of what they do and are integral in our management of children with complex challenges related to such chronic disorders as epilepsy and neurodevelopmental disabilities. They are vital resources to these children and their families as information resources, counsellors, advocates and care co-ordinators as well as care providers. They do what they do with skill and grace, always willing to go the extra mile. I simply can’t imagine doing what I do as a physician without their vital help.

I strongly suspect that each and every Division, programme and functional unit within the Department of Pediatrics has a Heather or Rosalie. Take the time now to personally acknowledge to them the good things that they do on a daily basis.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael